

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AS, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND,
PACIFIC ISLANDS AFFAIRS

1. MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE INTER-AGENCY
WORKING GROUP ON MICRONESIA MET ON AUGUST 3 WITH
MR. NIMETZ IN THE CHAIR. HE REPORTED THAT THE MICRONESIAN
REPRESENTATIVES WERE STUDYING THE TWO-TIER NEGOTIATING
PROPOSAL MADE BY THE UNITED STATES AT THE MICRONESIAN-
US CONFERENCE AT GUAM, JULY 25-27. THE CONGRESS OF
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MICRONESIA IS EXPECTED TO REVIEW THE US PROPOSALS AT THE
AUGUST 15 SPECIAL SESSION. BOTH SIDES AGREED AT GUAM ON
THE OBJECTIVE OF FACILITATING THE RESUMPTION OF
NEGOTIATIONS. THE INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP IS IN THE
PROCESS OF PREPARING FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

2. VUNIBOBO COMES TO TOWN. FIJIAN AMBASSADOR VUNIBOBO, ACCOMPANIED BY NORENDIA SINGH, COUNSELOR OF THE FIJI MISSION, CALLED ON STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER WASHINGTON OFFICIALS AUGUST 3. THE FIRST APPOINTMENT WAS A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR DOBELLE, THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND JOHN SULLIVAN, ASSISTANT AID ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASIA, CENTERED

ON ASSISTANCE MATTERS. VUNIBOBO STATED HE KNEW THAT ON A PER CAPITA INCOME BASIS, FIJI DID NOT QUALIFY FOR AID. NONETHELESS, THERE WERE AREAS WHERE FIJI COULD USE ASSISTANCE AND HE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH THE US COULD HELP. MR. HOLBROOKE ALSO MENTIONED THAT WE WERE PLANNING TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO FIJI IN 1978. THE AMBASSADOR SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THE US HUMAN RIGHTS POSITIONS AND REQUESTED COPIES OF ALL THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS TO TAKE WITH HIM TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. IN THE AFTERNOON, VUNIBOBO MET WITH ANN MARTINDELL, DIRECTOR OF AID'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE. THEY DISCUSSED AID'S APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF A SEISMIC RESEARCH PROJECT TO MONITOR EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS IN FIJI AND TO PREPARE APPROPRIATE CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) CHRISTOPHER

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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